

Appl. No. 09/929,733
Atty. Docket No. 8206M
Amdt. dated 1/31/2007
Reply to Office Action of 08/31/2006
Customer No. 27752

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REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-6, 12, 14-18, 28, 40, and 43-56 are pending in the present application. Claims 7, 10, 11, 13, 19-27, 41, and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 43-56 have been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the invention. Support for the amendment is available, *inter alia*, in the specification as filed, at page 12, lines 16-28.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, and 18 have been amended to more clearly recite the viscoelastic material as recited in Claim 1.

Claim 43 has been added to more specifically recite the invention. Support for this amendment is available, *inter alia*, in the specification as filed, at page 12, line 28 to page 13, line 10.

Claims 44-56 have been added to provide updated claim dependency in light of the amendments to Claim 1, the cancellation of Claims 10, 11, 13, 19-27, and Claim 43

It is believed that these amendments introduce no new matter and should be allowed.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action, dated August 31, 2006, at page 2, paragraph 3 states that "on page 16, last line and page 25, line 25, it is suggested that the copending U.S. Application Numbers be updated to their corresponding patent or pregrant publication numbers. Appropriate correction is required."

Applicants submit that copending U.S. Application 08/816,106 on page 16 of the specification cannot be updated because this application has neither been issued nor been the subject of a pre-grant publication.

Next, Applicants note that copending U.S. Application 08/789,171 has been issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,912,408. The specification has been amended accordingly.

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Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action, dated August 31, 2006, at page 2, paragraph 4 states that "Claims 1-7, 10-28, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention."

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 has been amended to correct any alleged inadequacies. Further, Claims 2-6, 12, 14-18, 28, and 40, being dependent upon Claim 1, are believed to be in proper condition for allowance. Claims 7, 10, 11, 13, 19-27, 41, and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Rogers in view of Edwards

Claims 1-7, 10-28, and 40-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/44185 (hereafter "Rogers") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,076,633 (hereafter "Edwards"). Applicants respectfully obviate.

To establish a *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art reference. See *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981 (C.C.P.A. 1974); MPEP § 2143.03.

Applicants aver that Rogers in view of Edwards fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1 and, therefore, does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Claim 1 recites "a first outer layer and a second outer layer, wherein the first outer layer is bonded to the second outer layer through the plurality of apertures in the viscoelastic material, forming a plurality of bonding sites." (Emphasis added.) Rogers fails to teach or suggest a cleaning sheet where a first outer layer and a second outer layer are bonded through the plurality of apertures in the viscoelastic material. At best, Rogers at page 5, third paragraph, discloses "the carrier sheet is bonded to the coversheet." In fact, Rogers at page 43, first paragraph discloses that, "the coversheet (i.e. both topsheet and bottomsheets) are bonded to the carrier sheet." Claim 1, however, comprises bonds between the first and second outer layers of the cleaning sheet through the viscoelastic material. In other words, the bonds are not made to the viscoelastic material, but through it. Applicants respectfully aver that the Rogers bonds from cover sheet to carrier sheet fail to teach or suggest bonding

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of outer layers **through the plurality of apertures in the viscoelastic material**. As such, Claim 1 is nonobvious over Rogers.

Moreover, Edwards fails to correct the deficiencies of Rogers. The Office Action, at page 4 suggests that Edwards "teaches a similar softening article which is adapted for use in an automatic clothes dryer (see abstract) which comprises a multi-ply substrate, preferably paper, having 2 or 3 plies." Assuming *arguendo* that Edwards does teach a multi-ply substrate, there is still neither a teaching nor a suggestion to bond the first and second outer layer to each other, through the plurality of apertures in the viscoelastic material. See Claim 1. As such, Rogers in view of Edwards fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 1. As such, Claim 1 is also nonobvious over Rogers in view of Edwards.

Since Rogers and Edwards either individually or combined fail to teach or suggest all the elements of the presently claimed invention, these claims are not obvious and the rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requested that these claims be admitted for allowance.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants to arrange for a telephonic interview.

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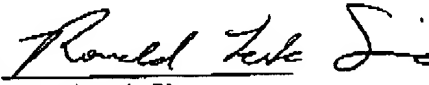
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CONCLUSION

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-6, 12, 14-18, 28, 40, and 43-56 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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